



00862.02244

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
AKITOSHI YAMADA, et al.) Examiner: S. Rogers
Application No.: 09/993,641) Group Art Unit: 2626
Filed: November 27, 2001)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS AND IMAGE)
PROCESSING METHOD) January 20, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

Europe 0 889 640
Europe 0 820 187

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report dated October 6, 2004 is enclosed.

It is noted that the Search Report cited U.S. Patent No. 5,739,917, U.S. Patent No. 5,565,994, U.S. Patent No. 6,057,933, EP 0 833 499 and EP 0 654 940. However, these documents were previously cited in the August 31, 2004 IDS and are therefore not being cited again herein.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

AKITOSHI YAMADA, et al.

FILING DATE

November 27, 2001

GROUP

2626

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	EP	0 889 640	01/07/99	Europe			
	EP	0 820 187	01/21/98	Europe			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1